Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and,

Whereas, Over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with Congenital Heart Defects; and,

Whereas, Every year 40,000 babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects; and,

Whereas, Some Congenital Heart Defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and,

Whereas, Undiagnosed Congenital Heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and,

Whereas, Despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects; and,

Whereas, A disproportionately small amount of funding is available for Congenital Heart Defect research and support; and,

Whereas, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and,

Whereas, The establishment of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media, in order to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2012, as

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota, and I urge our citizens to commend this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State